



Christopher Cox - 6PQE <christopher.cox@gsa.gov>

RE: rfbf and 4/5/2013 glass door break at SSA

1 message

Michael J. Heule <mheule@helixkc.com>

Thu, May 16, 2013 at 2:11 PM

To: Donald Distler - 6PCF <donald.distler@gsa.gov>

Cc: Thomas Thomas <tom.thomas@gsa.gov>, Christopher Cox - 6PCA <christopher.cox@gsa.gov>

Don,

Thanks for sharing. The other incidents we believe involved carts or buffers where breakages are at least explainable. The challenging thing with this incident is that neither were involved. We can only speculate that the doors may have taken some previous "strikes" (as John Hunt noted in this morning's OAC meeting, some people are still bringing carts through the glass doors) stressing the door to the verge of breaking, maybe even the night before, and it just happened to break the next morning with the simple force of opening the door (based on the report it had not reached the hold open position).

I assume this person involved frequently opens the doors in the morning. I wonder if they had been experiencing any loose hardware, problems with the door staying in its hold open position or other unusual issues related to the doors operation. It is curious that the injuries this person sustained were the right hand and left foot. I am trying to imagine what position they may have been in when the failure occurred.

Getting staff to use alternate doors for cart traffic, training Goodwill to be careful with buffers near doors, performing the identified hardware maintenance and installing the stainless steel edge trim should go a long way in better protecting the doors and in turn improving occupant safety. As recommended in today's report, testing one of the doors in place to failure (swinging door w/o edge impacts) may provide some antidotal evidence of the strength of the door assembly and the degree of force it may take to bring a glass door to failure.

Unfortunately even with all these steps there can be no guarantees a failure will not occur again at some point in the future. We are doing our best to create conditions to minimize this potential.

Thanks,

Mike

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From: Donald Distler - 6PCF [mailto:donald.distler@gsa.gov]

Sent: Thursday, May 16, 2013 8:44 AM

To: Michael J. Heule

Cc: Thomas Thomas; Christopher Cox - 6PCA

Subject: rfb and 4/5/2013 glass door break at SSA

Hi Mike, Attached is the incident report. It is shared for official use as to take necessary corrective action because this a matter of life safety.

Don Distler

Project Manager - Design & Construction Division, Heartland Region 6 (6PCF), GSA PBS

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